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CLASSIFICATION ~~RESTRICTED~~
 CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
 INFORMATION FROM
 FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY India; Kashmir; China; USSR

SUBJECT Political - Communist activities

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspapers

WHERE PUBLISHED Pakistan

DATE PUBLISHED 4 Aug - 25 Sep 1952

LANGUAGE Urdu

DATE OF INFORMATION 1952

DATE DIST. *18* Mar 1953

NO. OF PAGES 3

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Newspapers as indicated.

COMMUNIST AGITATION IN INDIA
FOR ARMED REVOLTS AND SEPARATE STATES

Comment: This following information, taken from Pakistani Urdu daily newspapers for the period 4 August - 25 September 1952, deals with Communist activities in India which center on agitation for the creation of separate states by armed revolt and for revolutions by the Indian Army and by Kashmir.

Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.⁷

The threat of an armed revolt of Communists and Sikh troops, and the establishment of an independent state of Sikhistan in East Punjab was mentioned in the 10 August issue of Shahbaz, an Urdu daily newspaper published in Peshawar.

According to Shahbaz, circles close to the Indian Home Ministry revealed that the Indian government was considering putting martial law into effect in East Punjab because communiques arriving in New Delhi disclosed that conditions in the East Punjab area had become much worse and that the administrative machinery had been virtually abolished.

This report stated that on 7 August, Doctor Katju, Indian Home Minister, in an address to the Indian parliament, offered a frantic reminder of conditions in East Punjab, but that he could not impress upon parliament an understanding of the true character of events.

Doctor Katju explained, according to the report, that in East Punjab, Communists and dissatisfied Sikhs had formed an alliance which made the Indian Army a special target for destruction, and that consequently the situation was becoming very delicate and very dangerous. He declared that an enhancement in Communist propaganda was catching on among the Sikhs and its influence on the Sikh Army was very great. Therefore, he concluded, the danger was that an armed revolt of the Sikh Army, together with the restless peasants and populace, might begin anywhere.

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The report stated that in New Delhi it was believed that, unless corrective actions were quickly taken in the situation, the government would not be able to escape later consequences very easily. It was also believed according to the report, that with the legislative machinery abolished, the whole administration of the area should be turned over to the army, and that the government was being urged to issue necessary instructions to the East Punjab governor so that the administration might be strictly enforced.

The report further added that the scheme of the Communists and Sikhs is to establish another "Telangana" or independent government in East Punjab, whereby the Sikhs could achieve their demand for a separate state and accomplish the possibility of a Sikhistan.

It was also reported that Master Tara Singh's supporters of his Akali Party accordingly were also involved in the revolutionary movement. In New Delhi, Singh's current speeches were being regarded with anxiety and alarm since they were proving to be detrimental to Hindus. In a particular speech which demonstrated his cleverness and caution, Singh made the clear statement that the Moslems were happy with the Hindus.

According to the report, reliable circles of the Indian government believed that although Singh had been getting advice from legal experts in his campaign, it might be possible to arrest him very quickly under the Public Safety Act.

A Calcutta dispatch in the 25 September issue of Maghrabi Pakistan, an Urdu daily newspaper of Lahore, reported another Communist plan to oppose India and establish a separate government in Darjeeling.

This dispatch stated that the Bengal Indian Communist Party announced that independence should be given to the various tribesmen of Bengal.

The Communist Party demanded that the Darjeeling district be acknowledged sooner than all others and be granted immediate independence because the Nepali language was spoken in Darjeeling as well as among the many tribes.

Moreover, according to the dispatch, the Communist Party warned that unless the Nehru government honored the demand of these tribes, a movement against the central government would be started.

The dispatch further stated that reports issuing from Darjeeling indicated that "the flame of revolution against the Nehru government is bursting forth" in the hill districts, and that all semblance of order was "topsy-turvy."

According to an Indian newspaper's report, the dispatch stated, the Communist Party is supporting and training armed tribesmen to seize Darjeeling. The Chinese Communists are also supplying these tribes with arms, it said. (2)

Plans for a revolt in Kashmir were disclosed by a Delhi dispatch in the 4 August issue of Shahbaz.

The dispatch stated that Sheikh Abdullah would create a revolution in India at the suggestion of the USSR and presented the views of Indian political circles regarding Abdullah's relations with the Indian Communist Party.

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The dispatch outlined the following viewpoints of different political groups:

Some political circles believed that the Communist Party of India supported the Abdullah group and opposed the merger of Kashmir into India because the border of Kashmir adjoins the USSR, Communist China, and Tibet.

Opponents of the Abdullah-Nehru group declared that the USSR had a hand in the political affairs of India concerning the Kashmir issue.

Other political circles declared that the USSR was grooming Sheikh Abdullah to create a revolution against India.

The Hindu Mahasabha circle in Delhi declared that Sheikh Abdullah had made a secret agreement with Communist China. As grounds for this opinion, it explained that only the Communist Party in the Indian Parliament had supported Sheikh Abdullah, that the Communist Party was concerned only with the border of China and with Abdullah's importance to China, and that P. C. Joshi, Indian Communist leader, in praising Sheikh Abdullah had stated that he considered the Kashmir leader more far-sighted than the Indian leaders.(3)

Meanwhile, Communist agitation for revolution within the Indian Army was indicated by a Bombay dispatch in the 8 August issue of Tameer, an Urdu daily newspaper of Rawalpindi.

According to the dispatch, the Bombay government confiscated a book published by the Communist Party, entitled Principles of Unity, on the charge that the book anticipated and incited revolution in the Indian Army.(4)

SOURCES

1. Peshawar, Shahbaz, 10 Aug 52
2. Lahore, Maghrabi Pakistan, 25 Sep 52
3. Shahbaz, 4 Aug 52
4. Rawalpindi, Tameer, 8 Aug 52

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